SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA DEPARTMENT OF KINESIOLOGY AND REHABILITATION SCIENCE CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP AN IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY TO REQUIRE YOUTH SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS TO INITIATE AND IMPLEMENT CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT PLANS.

WHEREAS, concussions may cause lasting health effects including memory problems; lack of inhibition; intense anger or aggression; personality changes; inattention and lack of concentration; problems organizing, planning, and problem solving; and language impairment; and

WHEREAS, baseline and post-injury neuropsychological and balance assessments, as well as an examination and release from the child's physician before starting a return to play plan are vital to properly evaluating and treating concussions in children; and

WHEREAS, proper diagnosis, treatment, and return to play planning is necessary to protect children from lifelong effects of brain injury; and

WHEREAS, the issue of concussion management in interscholastic sports and youth sports leagues has spurred legal action nationwide; and

WHEREAS, not all youth sports organizations in Hawaii employ concussion management plans; and

WHEREAS, while Act 197, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, set a standard for concussion awareness, education, and management for high school student athletes, a second step is necessary to implement a similar concussion protocol for participants in youth sports organizations; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Hawaii Concussion Awareness and Management Program within the University of Hawaii at Manoa Department of Kinesiology and Rehabilitation Science is requested to convene a working group to develop an implementation strategy to require youth sports organizations to initiate and implement concussion management plans by December 31, 2017; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be led by the Chair of the University of Hawaii at Manoa Department of Kinesiology and Rehabilitation Science, or the Chair's designee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group include but not be limited to the following members:

(1) A representative from the Hawaii High School Athletic Association;

(2) Four representatives from youth sports organizations to be selected by the Chair of the University of Hawaii at Manoa Department of Kinesiology and Rehabilitation Science;

(3) A representative from the Hawaii Athletic Trainers' Association; and

(4) A representative from the Department of Health; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Concussion Awareness and Management Program within the University of Hawaii at Manoa Department of Kinesiology and Rehabilitation Science submit a report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2016, on the working group's implementation strategy and recommendations, including proposed legislation, for developing a statewide youth sports concussion management program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health submit a report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to

the convening of the Regular Sessions of 2017 and 2018 on the status of implementation of concussion management plans among youth sports organizations; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group cease to exist on July 1, 2018; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Health, Chair of the University of Hawaii at Manoa Department of Kinesiology and Rehabilitation Science, Executive Director of the Hawaii High School Athletic Association, and President of the Hawaii Athletic Trainers' Association.